

**To:** McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa[Mcclain-Vanderpool.Lisa@epa.gov]  
**From:** Williams, Caroline  
**Sent:** Tue 8/11/2015 1:53:20 PM  
**Subject:** Lisa, Examples of inquiries yesterday morning. Let's talk.

Hi Lisa,

Here's a sample of the calls/emails we received yesterday morning. You'd talked about possibly having a Public Involvement Coordinator respond. Or, as I'd mentioned, at least sharing them with whoever is doing FAQs so some of the topics can be included. Let's talk more this morning on what I can provide, a format or whatever makes it easier to address these if we're taking a shot at it. Right now, Paula asked me to direct everyone to the EPA Gold King Mine Response website. Problem being - website doesn't answer many of the questions. And, many people don't want a website. Let's talk.

Caroline

**From:** Williams, Caroline  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2015 11:35 AM  
**To:** Smith, Paula  
**Cc:** Mylott, Richard  
**Subject:** Examples of types of inquiries we're receiving this morning

Here is what we've seen in emails and heard from the public this morning. Gives you an idea of what calls/emails we are fielding to the best of our ability. I sent you a generic written response that we'd like to use to respond to the email inquiries— as you'll see it doesn't answer all the questions/comments but it's a starting point.

I've heard someone may be putting together a list of Frequently asked Questions for the website. If so, some of this information may be helpful as it's the actual questions we're receiving.

1. I live in Silverton, site of the recent Gold King mine spill. There

is lots of opposition to a superfund designation here partially due to local officials claiming that lenders will not give business, residential, or land loans for properties in a superfund designated area. Is there any truth to this?

2. I want to first say that I am sorry to hear about the accident at the Animas river. AbTech believes we have a viable solution for the EPA. ...

3. We are available to help with the cleanup on the Animas. We are the local corporate Badger office. We will make trucks and crews available.

4. Dear Mr. McGrath, With as much damage as you have allowed to happen, resignation in disgrace is your only option. This incident only proves that you in particular and government in general is incompetent.

5. Mr. McGrath, My name is Eric Nyquist and I am the News Director at Four Corners Broadcasting in Durango. I wanted to check and see if you are interested in doing a 5 to 10 minute Pre Recorded PHONE interview this week at your convenience. I was hoping to ask you about the specific process that the EPA uses to test water samples of the Animas River and which aspects of that process takes time. The purpose is not to bring that process under fire, but to give the community an idea of why the EPA doesn't (can't) have all the answers immediately. The interview will be used as part of our daily news coverage.

Please feel free to contact me via this email address ([news@radiodurango.com](mailto:news@radiodurango.com)) or on my cell, Personal Phone/Ex. 6

Personal Phone/Ex. 6

6. Good morning Shaun – Fox News Channel's "Happening Now" is interested in having you join us for a live on-air phone interview at 1:20pmET/11:20amMT today to discuss the Anima River spill. This would be about 3-5 minutes long and Jenna Lee would anchor. Please get back to me with your interest and availability at your earliest convenience.

7. Dear Shaun, good morning. Hope you're doing well. I wanted to reach out as we are interested in inviting you for a 5 minute interview to discuss the latest with the Colorado River – on our **730am PST/1030amET** show this morning. I realize this is an incredibly last minute request but would really appreciate your perspective on the issue. It could be via Skype and I'm happy to discuss on the phone at your convenience. Please let me know if this might be possible?

8. I am sending you this note about a fix for the heavy metal content in the Gold King Mine spill. The Denver Post mentioned that a remedy is needed for the toxic metal content in the spill. Perhaps you would like to know that a solution is available. ...

9. Who was directly involved in the clean up crews for the mine spill with the Las Animas river? Will anyone in the EPA be prosecuted or fired for their part in this destroyed ecosystem?

10. I am Oland Robinson and I represent Catastrophe Response Unit (CRU). I direct our environmental claims division. The Gold King Mine spill of toxic water and chemicals will create potentially hundreds of thousands of claims from drinking water to major health issues. My division is experienced in handling these types of events. I personally have worked many years for FEMA Region 8 and have many contacts there for reference....

11. I am desirous of making an appointment to see the person in charge of remediation at the Gold King

Mine. Please call @ [Personal Phone/Ex. 6] or email instructions to do so. Thank you. Maurice Provosty, Enviroflex LLC, Durango, CO. ...

12. I run the environmental claims division with CRU. I have worked many years with FEMA Region 8. I want to know who to contact about handling the claims from the mine spill....

13. Hi Shaun, my name is Jonah reaching out from ABC Network News. I was wondering if you could tell me the current location of the front end of the plume (at 8:30 pm)?...

14. Mark Hestmark and all other EPA staff,  
This is Melody Skinner, Silverton, CO (Cement Creek runs by my house in Town).

[Personal Phone/Ex. 6]

I have met some of you in meetings in Silverton over the years.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for all of the work that you have done in San Juan County over many years....

15. Shaun McGrath should resign for his handling and supervision over the Animas River mine spill....

16. How much arsenic is the Environmental "Protection" Agency sending to my water tap in drought-ridden California?...

17. So you polluted a river with heavy metals, what a bunch of bureaucratic f@cking ASS HOLES. You and your useless fucking so called leader in Washington and I refuse to call him a presidenbecause he is actually a fucking traitorous foreign cock sucker, and you fuckers call yourselves climate saviors. Go fuck yourselves.

Thanks for nothing,

18. Mark Reeves here from the CBS Weekend Evening News in NY. Hope you are well. I wanted to see if there was any update on the testing of the waters affected by the Mine Spill from the abandoned Mine in Southwestern Colorado. When are you expecting to get the results?...

19. Shaun, I am doing the story for Reuters today on gold mine spill. I saw the data posted on the website today about contaminants in the spill, but it needs to be interpreted. Do you plan a conference call with media today or can you call me?...

20. My house is on the bank of the river. I irrigate with water from the river. My drinking water is from a shallow well. How can I get my water tested as soon as possible? Please advise a.s.a.p....

21. I have several years of containment building experience and was wondering if you are bringing in contractors for the mine spill. I have the ability and crew to build as needed in the field.  
My contact [Personal Phone/Ex. 6]

22. I really think there should be an article published about the Animas River mishap. There should be integrity held upon the behalf of EPA for any accidents or mistakes made. If a problem has been made worse the people should know....

23. Nonsense. I've read your "bulletin", and I just want to say you did a

wonderful job of covering up your absolute FAILURE to do your jobs.

I've been embarrassed by your lack of intervention into the workings of grossly polluting industries - but do you have to personally go out and make things worse by creating a disaster yourselves?

SAD!

24.

I was wondering if you'all over there could use a athletic intelligent forty two year old man to assist in any way shape or form. Free labor :) I'm very serious about this. I would be honered to help.

25. As the EPA loves to beat up on innocent Americans for supposedly violating regulation the EPA has assumed, are you going hold yourselves accountable for this spill?...

26. Shaun, We can drop out the metals and contaminants on The Animas River. We use patented technology and the process is quick....

27. Dear Mr. McGrath We have provided a number of mines in the USA, Canada and Latin America with remote analyzers for continuous arsenic monitoring to provide early warnings of such incidents and reduce the risk of them happening in the future....

28. I work in the wastewater field. for a municipality. I do it so that future generations have a planet that they can live their lives on. I hope that appropriate action is taken to discipline whomever made this mistake.

29. You idiots at the EPA, former mayor of Boulder, who better to lead this nonsensical agency. Nothing was wrong here, nothing, but in your infinite wisdom, you decide to dig a pond to release water from a closed mine, so in the future a bigger problem didn't take place, goes hand in hand with global warming don't 'ya think, and cause the very problem you said you were trying to avoid. It's past time to END the EPA and other government agencies, who are making decisions based on non factual statements made by supporters to bolster this type of activity, nonsense!

30. Hello, I was wondering if you could provide me with the name of the company that you contracted to do the work that resulted in the dumping of waste into the River.

31. I am not happy about your lack of professionalism in regard to polluting the Animas River...WTH....investigate this to the fullest and be transparent about....shame on the EPA...supposed to protect the environment.

32. I did read the Zoe Schlanger article about the spill of mining Waste Water in the Internet. I did also see the alarming pictures. The report is even shown here in Germany. The reason I contact you is to show you a new and innovative technology where heavy contaminated water can be treated by using the Photo Catalytic process. The attached document will inform you a bit more in detail about the technology....

33. What a fricking nightmare that you have let this mine waste sh!t go into the Animas River! My god!!!!!! We are in a fricking drought and you let this happen! What about all the wildlife that is going to be poisoned because of this. **TOTALLY I R R E S P O N S I B L E**!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! AND....waited an entire day to let New Mexico officials know about it. I am sick to death what is happening to our country....

34. I am interested in gaining contact with whom ever is in charge of the emergency response for the Gold King Mine release. I am curious who they may be contracting to preform remediation work. I am a recent graduate of Fort Lewis College with a Geology degree and I'm seeking employment in this field. Please let me know what you can do for me. Thanks.

35. My microbes are listed on the National Contingency Plan. They will remediate all of the heavy metals and contaminants associated with mining waste....

36. I grew up in Silverton. I also worked at the Sunnyside mine, both during production and during reclamation. You need to be careful with hydraulic seals on mines. After the Red Bonita is sealed, ground will return to the iron bogs below. This will be very detrimental to water quality. The San Juans are the most naturally polluted area in America. You will waste taxpayer money and gain nothing....

37. Hello I am Gabriel with NBC Network News and we were wondering if there will be another community meeting this weekend or the following week? Thank you.

38. Regarding the EPA press release on the recent catastrophe in Silverton, CO, what precise factual evidence did the EPA use to inform it's statement, "The agency said impacts on wildlife and the environment in the area would likely be minimal."?  
I would like an honest answer, if I don't get one, I'll assume you don't have one.  
Thank you

39. I am attempting to contact region 8 in the Colorado region to discuss an opportunity to help the EPA, wildlife and local residents with the tragic misfortune on the Animas River near Silverton, CO. I am the Project Manager for OMNI Water Solutions and specialize in water cleaning and separate on of solids and unwanted soluble materials in any type of water....

40. Please fire all those responsible for the toxic spill in the Animas River. The environment has enough problems without this type of event. I was especially alarmed by a statement released from an EPA spokesperson that the water was not harmful to wildlife. What incompetence!

#### Phone Inquiries

He has a suggestion for linking to a website that provides more information about the Gold King Mine (Animas River) contamination.  
His family is going to be rafting on the Colorado River and want to know about the impacts from the Animas River contamination.  
They have a cleanup technology that could be used for the Gold King Mine disaster (Animas River).

He wanted to know to whom to send a concerned citizen about the Gold King Mine disaster.  
He wants more details on the cause of the Gold King Mine disaster.  
He wants more details on the cause of the Gold King Mine disaster.  
He has a Russian engineer who has developed a process to clean up the Animas River from the Gold King Mine disaster.  
He's looking for a business opportunity to help with cleanup of the Animas River from the Gold King Mine disaster.

Will EPA pay recreational companies for lost business such as rafting?

Associated Press - please provide the website that gives the EPA Press Releases re Animas?

Companies want to be hired by EPA for cleanup.

Citizen says he can't get thru to phone contact re Animas...has left many messages...will call the governor and complain about EPA sloppy handling of issue.

Many reporters on deadline from many states (left messages w/ EPA media – no response)

A website that was posted by EPA brings up error page.

Hydrologist wants specifics of toxics and their concentrations.

BLM wanted EPA contact.

Bureau of Reclamation – Durango. He is the contact if EPA needs it.

Bureau of Indian Affairs – 3 tribes effected. Who does he contact?